

New Century Scholarship: Recent Time-Line

Prepared by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
August 19, 2009

October 2007	Board of Regents requests new funding for New Century Scholarships in amount of \$1.7 million on-going, and \$659,700 as a one-time supplemental.
January 24, 2008	Commissioner's Office reports to Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee on New Century Scholarships program in support of Regents' budget request.
March 2008	Legislature appropriates \$800,000 in new on-going support (a budget increase of 60%) and \$459,700 in one-time supplemental.
September 2008	Board of Regents requests new funding for New Century Scholarship in the amount of \$762,600 on-going, \$750,000 one-time, and a one-time supplemental of \$102,600 (to cover estimated 20-25% program growth).
January 28, 2009	Commissioner's Office reports to Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee on New Century Scholarships program in support of Regents' budget request.
January-March 2009	Legislature considers and passes SB104 to amend both New Century and Regents' Scholarship programs including a provision to make both more financially sustainable by changing maximum award from 75% of tuition to a flat amount. By amendment of House Education Committee to the bill, implementation of this change is delayed one year to 2011.
March 2009	Legislature adopts budget for Fiscal 2010; New Century Scholarship program receives same 8% net cut as all of higher education.
Late March & April 2009	New Century Scholarship operations staff begins analysis to prepare projections of number of returning and new scholarships. Since by law students have until September 1, 2009 to qualify for this school year, staff contacts high schools as part of estimating the number of new students. It is estimated that there will be a record increase (by July the estimate is a 50% increase in awards).
April 1, 2009	Operations staff notifies Financial Aid directors of colleges and universities of potential shortfall in New Century program, and urged to counsel with students and families and identify alternative financing.
April 28, 2009	At Commissioner's request, staff advises Higher Education Appropriation Committee Co-Chairs of funding shortfall.
May 11, 2009*	Operations staff begins notifying New Century recipients that 2009 awards may be reduced to the level of 40-45%.

May 29, 2009	Staff receives informal Attorney General Opinion verifying that the statutes are clear authorizing Board of Regents to limit awards based on appropriations.
June 3, 2009	Commissioner's staff advises Governor's Office and GOPB of shortfall.
June 3-17, 2009	<p>Commissioner's staff discusses shortfall with legislative leadership (and from June 12-17 shares briefing paper). Leadership expresses support for program but rules-out additional money and accepts that awards will need to be cut to match appropriation. Those contacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education Appropriations Co-Chairs • Executive Appropriations Co-Chairs • Speaker of the House • House & Senate Majority Leaders • Two other members of majority leadership (one House, one Senate). • Legislative staff.
July 16, 2009	Commissioner's Office sends letter to all 104 legislators advising of the shortfall and that the Board of Regents expected to take action to reduce the awards as provided by statute.
July 17, 2009	Board of Regents acts to limit awards to match legislative appropriation in accordance with their statutory responsibilities.
August 2009	<p>Award notification letters sent out to students containing new percentages.</p> <p>Website updated.</p> <p>Briefed State Board of Education.</p> <p>Responded to numerous phone calls and emails from students and their families.</p> <p>Discussed with several legislators.</p>
August 18, 2009	Governor Herbert and Legislative Leaders announce support for full funding of New Century awards for 2009-2010.

*Date approximate